Volume 1, Issue 2

2nd Quarter 2017

# Marine Corps Language Matters

Marine Corps Senior Language Authority

"Today's military establishment, its active duty, reserve, and civilian personnel, must be trained and ready to engage the world with an appreciation of diverse cultures and to communicate directly with local populations. These skills save lives" -House Armed Services Committee. 2008

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# FY16 Language Award Winners

Congratulations to the Marine Corps FY2016 Language Award Winners!

2<sup>nd</sup> Radio Battalion was recognized as the Command Language Program of the Year (CLPOY) and Sgt Kyle Morgan was recognized as the Language Professional of the Year (LPOY).

2d RadBn's Command Language Program (CLP) effectively prepared over 150 Marine cryptologic linguists to support operational requirements. As a result of tailored and targeted training plans, the program increased its Marines' proficiency rates from 89% to 93%, far surpassing Marine Corps standards and setting the example for all other Command Language Programs. Additionally, 71 of the command's linguists sustained a secondary language, providing increased capability to the Marine Corps Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Enterprise (MCISRE).

Sgt Morgan is a 3 (listening)/4 (reading) Russian linguist currently assigned to the Defense Threat

Reduction Agency-Europe. He provided interpretation support to senior Russian officers during strategic level engagements and high-level planning conferences. Information he gathered from conventional arms control and anti-proliferations experts was cited in annual country reports and used for major planning considerations for future missions. Sgt Morgan expertly represented and enforced U.S treaty rights and obligations on all missions, earning him the highest respect of peers, superiors, and foreign partners.

Both 2<sup>nd</sup> Radio Bn and Sgt Morgan will be the Marine Corps' nominations for the DoD 2016 CLPOY and LPOY boards in July.

Marines from any MOS, in the rank of E1-E6, who have minimum 2/2 language scores and have used their language in an operational capacity, are eligible to be nominated. We look forward to next year's nominations highlighting the accomplishments of the outstanding linguists across our Marine Corps in 2017!

# Language Matters!

Thanks to Mr. Kris Plant, a Command Language Program Coordinator at Marine Raider Support Group, for submitting the winning title for the newsletter. It's an apt name that highlights the intent of the newsletter: to share all matters related to language and to remind us that *language matters!* 

# My Home, My Homeland: Marine Uses Language Skills in Iraq

reprint from: www.marines.mil

Undisclosed Location -- Cpl. Ali J. Mohammed, a supply Marine from Headquarters and Service Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command, is serving as a translator with an SPMAGTF Advise and Assist team that supports Iraqi forces as they fight to oust ISIL from their country.

Mohammed was born and raised in Baghdad, Iraq, until the age of 16. When most teenagers are busy preparing for prom or heading to cheer on their high school for Friday night football, Mohammed and his family were forced to leave the only home they knew. After his family received numerous threats from extremists for their role in supporting the U.S., Mohammed and his family chose to move to the United States.

"I had to face a lot of challenges coming to America," said Mohammed. "Trying to learn English and working to help support my family while going to high school was difficult." Despite the challenges Mohammed faced, he graduated from high school less than five years after coming to the United States.

On Nov. 4, 2014, Mohammed made a life changing decision, one which would bring him back to Iraq. On that mild fall day, he raised his right hand and swore his oath of enlistment into the United States Marine Corps. His story is like many who take that oath, one that includes a desire to serve his country while being part of something larger than oneself.

When recalling childhood memories from Iraq, he spoke about his sister who used to translate for U.S. Marines.

"Seeing her work so closely with these Americans, how much she trusted them and seeing how much they wanted to help us made me idealize them as a child," Mohammed said. "It is part of the reason I decided to join the Marine Corps."

Mohammed's current role highlights the partnership between SPMAGTF Marines and the Department of Defense with Iraqi military members by translating pertinent information to support their operations.

"To be able to read, write and speak Arabic is normal to him, and for him to be a U.S. Marine and understand how we operate is just phenomenal," said Maj. Ryan Hunt, the team leader for the SPMAGTF Advise and Assist team operating in Northern Iraq. "He's just a pleasure to work with and is a huge asset to this team. He's had such a positive attitude and is very mature; sometimes I forget he's only 23 years old."

Mohammed speaks a unique dialect of Arabic and is no stranger to serving as a translator while forward deployed.

"My first deployment was the most difficult, but the most rewarding," said Mohammed. "There was an Army hospital in [Iraq] that was full of Iraqi causalities from attacks by extremist groups in the area. I did everything I could to help as many people as possible. I would sit there with the patient and they would try the best they could to tell me where they were hurt or what was wrong. It was an experience I will never forget."

"America is my home, but Iraq is my homeland," said Mohammed. "My biggest motivation right now is to help drive these extremist groups out of my home land, and being able to do that as a United States Marine is the most rewarding thing I could have asked for."

Mohammed's next goal in the Marine Corps is to utilize his skillset while serving with the United States Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command. He strives to apply his ability to speak, read and write Arabic to MARSOC's core capabilities of direct action, special reconnaissance and foreign internal defense.

# **Human Language Technology**

House Report 114-102, to accompany the FY16 NDAA, requested that the Department of Defense prepare a briefing on Language Translation Technology. Excerpts from the 14-page brief appear below,

For the purpose of this briefing, the term "language translation technology" equates to the technological means of rendering one language into another language without human interpretation of content, tone of voice, demeanor, gestures, or other non-verbal communication such as "body language." Language Translation technology is also frequently referred to as Human Language Technology. HLT includes automated machine translation engines integrated into analytical applications, and translation aides for human translators, such as translation memories, terminolo-

Language translation technology enables human experts to carry out their duties more efficiently. It augments human expertise. gy management, and specialized dictionaries.

Language translation technology is critical to intelligence analysts and operators who handle large volumes of data, or who need situational awareness from publicly available information in foreign languages.

The use of translation technology is emerging and not yet fully mature for personnel on the street who are communicating with the local populace, for informal sources of data such as unconstrained spoken language, and for social media communications. HLT's greatest contribution to national defense is not what it is able to do in and of itself, but by how it enables human experts to carry out their duties more efficiently, more effectively, and more reliably. Language translation technology augments human expertise. It allows the Marine

Corps to better manage gaps in language capability.

Language translation technology is a vital part of our efforts to provide Marines the capabilities they need.

Translation technology allows the Marine Corps to process a large and continuous volume of information. This is a force multiplier, especially in circumstances when few linguists are available and actionable time-critical intelligence is sought. The use of language translation technology varies depending upon the type of unit, its mission, types of data sources, and actual work to be performed. Translation technology can process large volumes of data, handle it in a timely fashion, identify and sort information for work load prioritization, and support further analytics and decision making. This helps focus human expertise on information with potentially high mission impact. One language translation technology can be inserted and coupled with other Human Language Technologies. The current state of the art requires the transformation of media into text to be able to use translation technologies and as such, translation is often dependent on other Human Language Technologies such as:

- Speech Technologies (Language Identification, Speaker Identification, Topic Spotting)
- Speech-to-text transcription (Automatic Speech Recognition)
- Two-way text-to-text translation (foreign language to English and English to foreign language)

- Information Retrieval
- Cross-lingual and cross-media searches;
   Named Entity Extraction
- Translation Aides (Translation memory, terminology management, dictionaries);
- Visualization
- Summarization
- Speech-to-speech (one-way and two-way)
- Optical Character Recognition (OCR)

The Department of Defense makes extensive use of language translation technology. Certain capabilities are still growing and require more development. Others are mature enough to satisfy basic translation requirements. The employment of this technology is tailored to meet specific needs at all levels. from the individual at the tactical level to the huge volume requirements of our Defense Agencies. This interlocking web of utilization maximizes the utility of the translation technology resources and represents a successful approach to incorporating technology even as it continues to evolve its capabilities. This is a good example of government and commercial development teaming to support a national need. As this briefing concludes, there are three main points the Department would like the Committee to consider:

First, language translation technology is not replacing human linguists. Rather, it is enhancing their capability to work more quickly and with greater precision and accuracy.

Second, the Department of Defense and other

Federal agencies are sharing capabilities to ensure that the warfighters are getting the translation support required for their missions—no single asset addresses all of the Department's translation needs.

Language translation technology is not replacing human linguists. It is enhancing their capability to work more quickly with

Third, language translation greater precision. technology continues to evolve, as does the mission it is designed to support. Continued investment by the government and private sector will improve the type and quality of resources available to our warfighters.

The Marine Corps currently has three programs of record to support Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) and Special Operations Command operations: PhraselatorC, RAMSHEAD© human language technology suite, and a third system which is under development. The third system seeks to provide a translation capability for digital media as part of the Counter Intelligence Human Intelligence Equipment Program. Each of the Services and numerous other US Government agencies have different technologies available and use these technologies in different and exciting ways, all of which are detailed in the brief.

A full copy of the brief is on our website.

Check out the word cloud at the end of the newsletter that was created with language translation technology.

Do you speak any of the languages represented in the word cloud? How accurate are the translations for

"always faithful?" Can you make any corrections? Send your corrections to

HQMC\_ForeignLanguageProgram\_OPI@usmc.mil

### National Virtual Translation Center



www.nvtc.gov

The National Virtual **Translation Center** (NVTC) serves as an element of the U.S. Intelligence Community and was established by Congress in 2003.

The NVTC has

NVTC is an FBI-managed federal government center created to serve the U.S. government's translation needs. The NVTC was established by Congress in 2003 and was designated an

Intelligence Community Service of Common Concern (SOCC) by the Director of National Intelligence in September 2014.

government The mission of the NVTC is to provide and facilitate timely and accurate translaagencies, to tion services of foreign language material include the to the elements of the Intelligence Com-Marine Corps. munity and other federal government agencies and military services at the national level. The center offers a comprehensive set of language services to the federal government, with source material processed in a wide variety of formats: handwritten, typewritten, and electronically or digitally produced documents; microfilm; audio; video; and webbased content.

The NVTC has served numerous government agencies within the Intelligence Community and the Department of Defense, to include the Marine Corps.

NVTC provides translation services to federal

government employees working within a civilian defense intelligence community agency, a Department of Defense military organization, or any other civilian federal governmental NVTC can translate all types of maagency. terials that fall within your organization's purview. All NVTC linguists must be U.S. citizens.

NVTC responds to ad hoc and standing language translation requests for Federal Government customers. The Military Departments and other Department of Defense Compo-

nents make up a majority of the center's annual work load. As an example, standtechnology exist for the National Security Agency and for U.S. Central Command

in Iraq and Afghanistan. Standing support to the National Security Agency involves translation of Chinese documents into English. Textto-text translation of military field manuals is another frequent requirement. USSOUTH-COM routinely uses the National Virtual Translation Center for more extensive transla-

served numerous ing requirements for language translation which relies heavily on it services. CENT-COM's requirements include the translation of English language intelligence highlights into partner languages for operations tion projects.

> To request NVTC translation services, customers must submit a customer inquiry form, located on the NVTC website.

# Command Language Program Manager Training

Per MCO 1550.25A, all Command Language Program Managers are to attend CLPM training within 6 months of appointment. To satisfy this requirement, the Defense Language Institute (DLI) offers CLPM training (course 00ZZ) several times a vear. The course is hands-on and designed for new CLPMs and extremely beneficial to units who are setting up a language program for the first time. In addition to continuous networking and idea sharing, the course gets into the nuts and bolts of CLMP duties. The curriculum encompasses a wide variety of topics from introduction of appropriate USG, DoD and Service policies and programs, to getting into the weeds on how to use existing tools. Students are presented information on testing and training resources, current FLPB policies, and effectiveness of different teaching methodologies. Students are informed of different training opportunities provided by DLI, to include MTTs, and how to schedule them. Additionally, students are required to complete a final project

that has real world relevance. For the final projects, students may prepare a digital turnover binder to take back to their unit, or create a commander's briefing on the unit's Command Language Program.

Additionally, each summer DLI hosts a workshop for CLPMs, and many Marine CLPMs from across the operating forces attend. At this workshop, DLI presents updates to language policies and new initiatives, and has numerous breakout sessions from which CLPMs can choose to learn more about topics of interest to them and their unit – from testing procedures to immersion opportunities to service-specific issues. Additionally. Marines share ideas and learn best practices from their fellow Marine CLPMs. This year, the workshop is 29-31 August at DLI in Monterey, CA. Units who have CLPMs or personnel interested in attending either the CLPM training or workshop should contact MSgt Sagebiel (ann.sagebiel@usmc.mil.)

# Changes to Portuguese and Chinse DLPTs

MARADMIN 177/17 announced the DLPT 5 for both Brazilian (QPB) and European (QPE) Portuguese. Effective 17 April, the previous Brazilian and European tests were deactivated. The new European (QPE) listening comprehension and Portuguese (QPB) listening comprehension will be combined with a new Portuguese (POR) reading comprehension. Marines must still meet the requirements per MARADMIN 520/16 in order to receive FLPB payments.

Similarly, the Chinese DLPTs will also be changing, effective 30 May, and the MARADMIN announcing the changes is currently in staffing. There is a new Chinese-Cantonese (YUE) DLPT 5 listening comprehension test, and the YUE reading comprehension test is being deactivated. The new test for Chinese Cantonese will combine Cantonese listening comprehension with the current DLPT 5 Chinese Mandarin (CMN) reading comprehension for validation of proficiency, including for the purpose of FLPB. There are no changes to the Mandarin (CMN) test.

# 267x MOS Changes

As part of the 2600 Modernization plan, changes are coming to the 267x MOS. The new changes have been approved in the FY18 MOS Manual and will take effect on 1 October 2017. These changes are administrative in nature and will require no change in training or the current accession pipeline.

Marines in the ranks of E1-E5 who currently hold a 267x PMOS will all become Cryptologic Language Operator/Analyst (MOS 2641). After 1 October, only Marines in the rank of E1-E5 will hold a linguist PMOS.

Marines in the ranks of E6-E7 who currently hold a 267x MOS will be grandfathered and become Signals Intelligence/Electronic Warfare Technician (MOS 2629).

Marines in the ranks of E1-E9 who are or were previously 2641 or 267x, have attended DLI and been assigned a 27xx MOS, will maintain that 27xx NMOS. Accession 2641 Marines will continue to be assigned NMOS 27xx. Since all linguists now hold one single PMOS, the NMOS 27xx will

continue to identify language capability in the individual Marine and language requirements on unit T/O.

Language billets will still exist for SNCOs, and these billets will be identified by BMOS 27xx on unit T/O.

Additionally, there is a new NMOS for 3/3 linguists. Marines who have obtained 3/3 on the DLPT in their primary (DLI trained) language will be eligible for the Advanced Cryptologic Language Operator/Analyst (MOS 2642). Marines in the ranks of E1-E5 who are 2641 and E6-E9 who were previously 2641 or 267x are also eligible for the 2642 NMOS. The 2641 MOS Specialist will grant approval of the 2642 MOS.

Changes to the PMOS does not address or change any existing foreign language policy.

We have received many questions about how this change will affect Marines and units. Some of these questions and answers are below.

# Q: As a linguist, how does this change affect my promotions?

A: One of the driving components behind this change was to improve promotions opportunities for the linguists. Mathematically, larger MOS have better promotion opportunities than smaller MOS. This change will even out the promotion rates between the different languages, as well as make promotion rates similar to the 2621. No change is ever painless. There will be growing pains and it may take 2-3 years for the promotion rates to even out and settle, but in the long run promotion opportunities for linguists should level out.

# Q: Won't it complicate T/O, orders, assignments, etc to have all the linguists under one PMOS?

**A:** Under the current system, language requirements are identified by 27xx BMOS on the T/O, and this will not change. Both 2676 and 2673 are currently comprised of more than language, and individual language capabilities are identified by a Marine's NMOS 27xx. Once all Marines are 2641, assignment procedures and processes that already exist for PMOS 2673 and 2676 will be used for 2641.

#### Q: Should Marines with different languages

# compete for the same promotions? Aren't some languages more difficult than others?

**A:** Marines are promoted on the whole Marine concept. Language "difficulty" is subjective and not a factor for promotion. In the case of 2673 and 2676, Marines with different languages are already competing for the same promotions. As is the case for any MOS, the important factor is *proficiency*, not the difficulty of the skill. The Marine Corps has a requirement for <u>proficient</u> linguists in numerous languages, not just the "difficult" ones.

# Q: Since our SNCOs will no longer be assigned linguist PMOS, won't we lose important language capability in our higher ranks?

A: SNCOs who were previously 267x or 2641 will still be identified by NMOS 27xx and will be eligible for the 2642 MOS, which identifies our advanced linguists. SNCO language billets will still exist and will be identified by BMOS 27xx on the T/O. 2629/91 Marines who were previously 2641 or 267x and hold a 27xx will still be eligible for FLPB to encourage language sustainment and enhancement. Today, many SNCO linguists are not assigned language billets, yet are still highly proficient, as shown by the statistics below. Marines will continue to improve their language skills as they increase in rank. SNCOs will continue to be proficient and set the example, no matter what their assignments or PMOS may be.

For further questions, contact MSgt Sagebiel (ann.sagebiel@usmc.mil)

# 267x Proficiency as of April 2017

2/2 or Higher	3/3 or Higher
E1-E3 80.3%	E1-E3 13.9%
E4-E5 81.8%	E4-E5 19.8%
E6-E7 86.4%	E6-E7 33.6%

# Culture, Language and Regional Expertise Operational Professional Enhancement

As detailed in MARADMIN 227/17,

Intelligence Department t is a member of the Enlisted Professional Development and Education Working Group (EDPEWG) and also is a driving force behind developing Operational Professional Enhancement (OPE) programs for individual occupational fields. These OPEs will provide education to our Marines that will in turn bring about additional skills that enhance their ability to perform their MOS duties - professionalizing our Marines.

The Language Regional Expertise and Culture (LREC) OPE is one of three OPEs being piloted by I-Dept.

The LREC OPE program seeks to meet the CMC's intent to establish a Marine Corps that is better trained, better educated, physically and mentally fit, and ready to prevail in the uncertain and volatile environments that will characterize future battlefields and contingencies. The LREC OPE will also support demand signals from the National Security Agency (NSA) for increased proficiency levels among DoD professional linguists, and support the accession of Marines into various communities that require LREC capabilities.

The goal of the LREC OPE is to professionalize our Marines, bringing relevant skills that will enhance their language and analyst skills. One of the additional positive outcomes is that Marines will be eligible to achieve a undergraduate degree in Global Studies (with a specific regional emphasis).

The foundational effort and pilot programs will initially focus on Primary MOS (PMOS) 267X Marines (Cryptologic Linguist), but will have the flexibility to expand to other MOS in the future.

IOE chose Global Studies, as opposed to language, as our educational path because of flexibility to extend the global studies program to other MOS, and the greater LREC knowledge it brings to the linguists and all Marines. Global studies will give our linguists the wider perspective of culture, history, economics, politics, geography, etc, which provides a context in which a linguist performs his or duties, which improves his or her ability to perform linguist duties. A more well-rounded Marine is also an asset to the unit. An Arabic linguist, for example, who also pursues a Middle Eastern Studies educational path

brings not only language skills to the unit, but also Mid-East regional and cultural expertise.

California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) and Marines from I MEF will participate in the pilot program for the LREC OPE. The first student is expected to start in summer 2017. I-Dept (IOE) is developing relationships with other academic institutions to explore developing additional LREC OPE programs.

For more information, email our alias.

# Continuing Education Opportunity for Arabic Linguists

As of 2016, The Defense Language Institute has an articulation agreement with California University of Pennsylvania (CAL U) to accept transfer credit towards a Bachelor Degree in Arabic Language & Culture. CAL U also has an opportunity for their B.A to M.A. Arabic accelerated program where you can take ~12 credits that count toward both the B.A. & M.A.

"Under an agreement with the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, students who earn an Associate Degree in Modern Standard Arabic from the Defense Language Institute can transfer 45 credits toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in Arabic Language and Culture at Cal U"

#### TRANSFER CREDIT EVALUATION

They will work with prospective students to accept other transfer credits and will do both informal and formal evaluation for you http://www.calu.edu/prospective/veterans/index.htm

#### APPLICATION FEE

CALU stated they will waive the \$25 application fee upon request. POC: arabiconline@calu.edu

#### **PROFESSIONALIZATION**

Individuals are encouraged to continue their education and professionalization. Many resources are available. In addition to resources listed in MARADMIN 227/17, Marine Corps Intelligence Schools is available to address any questions or concerns @ MCIS S3 OMB@usmc.mil

### **DETAILS CAN BE FOUND AT:**

http://www.dliflc.edu/dliflc-graduates-to-transferunits-to-four-year-college-2/ http://www.calu.edu/

\*This is not an endorsement of any particular institution but for informational purposes only\*

# What's the Difference Between a Language and a Dialect?

Omniglot

Reprinted from: http://www.omniglot.com/blog/

Deciding whether a particular form of speech is a language or a dialect is a task fraught with difficulties. As well as linguistic criteria, there are also political, geographic and cultural issues to be considered. For example, closely related languages spoken in different countries, such as Norwegian, Swedish and Danish, might be considered dialects of one language if they were all spoken in a single country. There is considerable mutual intelligibility between these languages, but each of them has its own written standard, or two written standards in the case of Norwegian, which seems to be a good criterion for distinguishing languages. Perhaps you could define a language as a dialect with a standardised written form.

In the case of Arabic, there is one standard written form: Modern Standard Arabic, and many colloquial spoken forms, all of which are considered dialects of Arabic and are rarely used in writing. Though there is a high degree of mutual intelligibility between neighbouring colloquial forms of Arabic, for example, Jordanian and Syrian Arabic speakers of these dialects have difficulty understanding the Arabic spoken by Moroccans and Algerians. This is an example of a dialect continuum.

#### Where do dialects come from?

When groups of people are isolated from others, the way they speak tends to drift away

from mainstream forms of their language. Changes in the mainstream forms may not occur in the isolated form, and vice versa. Over time, the isolated form develops into a distinctive dialect, and if the isolation continues for long enough, that dialect may eventually become a language with its own written standard.

Another source of the differences between dialects comes from the languages once spoken in the regions where the dialects are now spoken. When people shift from one language to another, they usually carry over some features of their original language, including pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar. The dialects of English spoken in Ireland, for example, retain quite a few features of Irish. Similarly, substrates of the languages once spoken in the different regions of England can be found in some of today's regional dialects. Moreover, the modern Celtic languages may contain substrates of the languages they replaced, whatever they were.

## MARINE CORPS LANGUAGE HISTORY CORNER

Excerpt From:

HEADQUARTERS 2d BATTALTION, 26th MARINES, 5th MARINE DIVISION, FLEET MARINE FORCE c/o FLEET POST OFFICE, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

18 April 1945

Serial No. 0262A10845

From: Commanding Officer.

To: The Commanding Officer, 26th Marines.

Subject: Action Report on Iwo Jima Operation, 19 February, 1945 to 27

March, 1945.

References: (a) 5thMarDiv General Order No. 3A, 18 January, 1945.

(b) 5thMarDiv Memo No. 4A., 17 March, 1945.

Enclosures: (A) Action Report, LT 2-26

1. In compliance with directives contained in references (a) and (b), the attached report of action against the enemy on Iwo Jima Island by Landing Team 2026, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph P. Sayers, USMC, Commanding, is submitted herewith, Enclosure (A).

\* \* \*

B Intelligence Report

#### Comment

The enlisted linguist lacked self confidence when brought forward to induce Japanese to come of out caves. It is believed this lack of confidence was due to insufficient field training.

#### Recommendation

More field training for linguists.

Annex QUEEN, Appendix 4 (LT 2-26 Report, Comments and Recommendations)

Per MCO 1550.25A, the Director of Intelligence (DIRINT) is designated as the Senior Language Authority (SLA) for the Marine Corps.

The SLA is charged to adopt a broad perspective on Marine Corps language policies beyond intelligence-related languages issues.

Within Intelligence Department (IOE), the foreign language team supports the SLA, but the team doesn't do it alone. Language belongs to all of us, and many Marines, civilians and contractors across the Corps both use their language in the support of operations and their skills to provide support for language programs and requirements.

## CONTACT THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEAM

For foreign language questions, to be added to the newsletter distro, or to submit articles, email us at:

HQMC\_ForeignLanguageProgram\_OPI@usmc.mil

## VISIT THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEBSITE

http://www.hqmc.marines.mil/intelligence/Intel-OPS-PERS/Foreign-Language-Program/